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a second housing releasably attachable to the first housing to meet with the first housing around the periphery of the radiotelephone; and

at least one key unit for user-actuation of at least one key sensor;

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retaining means comprising a cover, for holding electronic components of the radiotelephone, including said key sensor but excluding said key unit, to the first housing when the second housing is released from attachment with the first housing, said key unit being free to move with respect to the first housing when the second housing is released from attachment with the first housing and;

wherein said second housing is releasably attachable to the first housing by a press-on/catch closure so that said second housing may be fitted on to the first housing by pressing it on.

15. (Amended) An electronic radiotelephone comprising:

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a back housing providing at least one key sensor;

at least one key unit for user-actuation of the at least one key sensor;

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a front housing having at least one opening for receiving said at least one key unit for user-actuation, and being releasable attachable to the back housing to meet with the back housing around the periphery of the radiotelephone, and retaining means comprising a cover, holding electronic components of the radiotelephone to the back housing when the front housing is released from attachment with the back housing;

wherein when the front housing is attached to the back housing the key unit is held between the front housing and the at least one key sensor and the key unit is thereby received in the at least one opening of the front housing;

said key unit being user removable when the front housing is released from attachment with the back housing and;

wherein said front housing is releasably attachable to the back housing by a press-on/catch closure so that said front housing may be fitted on to the back housing by pressing it on.

16. (Amended) An electronic radiotelephone comprising:

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a first housing;

a second housing releasable attachable to the first housing to meet with the first housing around the periphery of the radiotelephone;

at least one key unit for user-actuation of at least one key sensor; and

retaining means comprising a cover, holding electronic components of the radiotelephone to the first housing when the second housing is released from attachment with the first housing, wherein when the second housing is attached to the first housing the key unit is sandwiched between the second housing and the at least one key sensor, said key unit being free to move with respect to the first housing when the second housing is released from attachment with the first housing and;

wherein said second housing is releasably attachable to the first housing by a press-on/catch closure so that said second housing may be fitted on to the first housing by pressing it on.

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17. (Amended) An electronic radiotelephone comprising:

a first housing;

a second housing releasably attachable to the first housing to meet with the first housing around the periphery of the radiotelephone;

attachment means for attaching the second housing to the first housing by a user without employing a tool, wherein said second housing is releasably attachable to the first housing by said attachment means which comprises a press-on/catch closure so that said second housing may be fitted on to the first housing by pressing it on;

at least one key unit for user-actuation of at least one key sensor, and retaining means comprising a cover, for holding electronic components of the radiotelephone, including said key sensor but excluding said key unit to the first housing when the second housing is released from attachment with the first housing, said key unit being free to move with respect to the first and second housings when the second housing is released from attachment with the first housing.

18. (Amended) A handheld radio communication device having electronic components connected to a carrier plate comprising:

a housing substantially enclosing the electronic components, connected to the carrier plate the housing protecting the electronic components from access by a user of the device, the housing being adapted to receive a detachable external wall element and said housing having a base portion which projects beyond the side walls of the housing and on to which the external wall element can be fitted with its free edge opposing the base portion which projects beyond the side walls, the housing further including a plurality of housing walls, including first, second and third housing walls,, the external wall element at least partially covering the first, second and third housing walls and an attachment means

having formations for detachably connecting to the exterior of the housing the external wall element;

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a detachable external wall element adapted to overlie a portion of the housing, the external wall element being sized and shaped to at least partially cover the housing upon attachment thereto, the external wall element having a face portion with openings for the control elements, which the face portion will overlie upon attachment of the external wall element to the housing, each of the external wall element openings for the control elements being uncovered and exposed for use after attachment of the external wall element to the housing, the profile of the external wall element corresponding to the profile of the first, second and third housing walls;

the attachment means being formed cooperatively on each of the at least one wall of the housing and the at least one wall of the external wall element for detachably connecting to the housing the external wall element, comprising a snap-in-place releasable connection; and

at least one key unit for user-actuation of at least one key sensor held by said housing, said key unit being held in place over said key sensor by said external wall element so that when said external wall element is released from attachment with the housing, said key unit is free to move with respect to the housing.

19. (Amended) A handheld radio communication device having electronic components connected to a carrier plate comprising:

a housing substantially enclosing the electronic components connected to the carrier plate, the housing including openings for control elements for the electronic components, the housing protecting the electronic components from access by a user of the device, the housing being adapted to receive a detachable external wall element and said housing having a base portion which

projects beyond the side walls of the housing and on to which the external wall element can be fitted with its free edge opposing the base portion which projects beyond the side walls, the housing further including a plurality of housing walls, including first, second and third housing walls, the external wall element at least partially covering the first, second and third housing walls and an attachment means having formations for detachably connecting to the exterior of the housing the external wall element;

cb a detachable external wall element adapted to overlie a portion of the housing, the external wall element being sized and shaped to at least partially cover the housing upon attachment thereto, the external wall element having a face portion with openings for the control elements, which the face portion will overlie upon attachment of the external wall element to the housing, each of the external wall element openings for the control elements being uncovered and exposed for use after attachment of the external wall element to the housing, the profile of the external wall element corresponding to the profile of the first, second and third housing walls;

the attachment means being formed cooperatively on each of the at least one wall of the housing and the at least one wall of the external wall element for detachably connecting to the housing the external wall element, said attachment means comprising a press-on/catch closure; and

at least one key unit for user-actuation of at least one key sensor held by said housing, said key unit being held in place over said key sensor by said external wall element so that when said external wall element is released from attachment with the housing, said key unit is free to move with respect to the housing.

20. (Amended) A handheld radio communication device comprising a cordless telephone as a mobile telephone having electronic components connected to a carrier plate comprising:

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a housing substantially enclosing the electronic components connected to the carrier plate, the housing protecting the electronic components from access by a user of the device, the housing being adapted to receive a detachable external wall element and said housing having a base portion which projects beyond the side walls of the housing and on to which the external wall element can be fitted with its free edge opposing the base portion which projects beyond the side walls, the housing further including a plurality of housing walls, including first, second and third housing walls, the external wall element at least partially covering the first, second and third housing walls and an attachment means having formations for detachably connecting to the exterior of the housing the external wall element;

a detachable external wall element adapted to overlie a portion of the housing, the external wall element being sized and shaped to at least partially cover the housing upon attachment thereto, the external wall element having a face portion with openings for the control elements, which the face portion will overlie upon attachment of the external wall element to the housing, each of the external wall element openings for the control elements being uncovered and exposed for use after attachment of the external wall element to the housing, the profile of the external wall element corresponding to the profile of the first, second and third housing walls; and

the attachment means being formed cooperatively on each of the at least one wall of the housing and the at least one wall of the external wall element for detachably connecting to the housing the external wall element, comprising a snap-in-place releasable connection; and

at least one key unit for user-actuation of at least one key sensor held by said housing, said key unit being held in place over said key sensor by said external wall element so that when said external wall element is released from attachment with the housing, said key unit is free to move with respect to the housing.

21. (Amended) A hand held communication device comprising:

at least one element for input by a user and at least one element for output to the user, each one of said elements being sufficiently exposed to allow use by a user;

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a housing having a housing wall with openings therethrough, comprising openings for the at least one element for input by the user and the at least one element for output to the user;

a user attachable/detachable external non-planar cover attached to and at least partially covering the housing wherein the detachability provides for user interchange with another non-planar cover thereby facilitating user modification of the external appearance of the hand held communications device, the external non-planar cover being adapted to fit over the housing, the cover comprising a main face having an upper surface which is exposed when the cover is attached to the housing and a side wall extending downwards, away from the upper surface of the main face, the main face of the cover and at least portions of the side wall of the cover defining a cavity sized to receive a portion of the housing when attached thereto, the cover having said plurality of apertures therethrough to the cavity positioned over the housing including the opening for the at least one element for input by the user and the opening for the at least one element for output to the user, whereby each one of said input and output elements is sufficiently exposed to allow use by a user;

at least one user releasable retainer, holding the cover to the housing, formed by contact between the housing and the downwardly extending side wall of the cover, said retainer being releasable by the user without employing a tool, wherein the hand held device is fully functional when the cover is attached;